



NASFM News

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



A Message from President Alan Shuman

As many of you know, NASFM Vice President David Foreman has retired from his position as Illinois State Fire Marshal and subsequently his vice presidency. I would like to thank Dave for his contributions and support of NASFM. The rest of the Board joins me in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

Bill Degnan who is currently the NASFM Secretary/Treasurer has agreed to fill the Vice President position as well as continue as Secretary/Treasurer until next elections are held during the 2010 NASFM Annual Conference in July. Thank you Bill for all of your dedication.

Sincerely,

Alan Shuman
President

2010 NASFM Annual Conference



Mark your calendars! The 2010 NASFM Annual Conference will be held July 22-24, 2010 at the InterContinental Hotel in Downtown Chicago. This year's agenda topics will likely include Fire Safety and GreenBuildings; Bridging the Gap; Youth Firesetter Prevention Program; Fire/Arson Investigation and NFPA 921; a panel on Egress Technology; and ISO's new rating schedule. These will be in addition to the member roundtables, exhibits and Science Advisory Committee update to the membership that are a part of every NASFM annual conference.

Please watch your email for additional information or visit <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/>. Online registration will be available by mid-December. Hope to see you in Chicago!

Application Period Open for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

The Department of Homeland Security has posted the FY2009 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants Program Guidance on the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Website. The application period began on September 21, and grant applications must be received by October 23, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). The AFG Program is



2009 Upcoming Events...

October 13
Pallet Working
Group Meeting,
Washington, D.C.

**October 24 -
November 11**
ICC Code
Development
Hearings
Baltimore, MD

November 3
Pipeline
Emergencies
Train-the-Trainer
Eden Prairie, MN

November 5
Pipeline
Emergencies
Train-the-Trainer
Bismarck, ND

COMING IN 2010...

July 22-24
2010 NASFM
Annual
Conference,
InterContinental
Hotel
Chicago, IL

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administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and fire-related hazards. The grants are competitive, and their primary goal is to target high-risk populations. Grant awards are made in order to mitigate high incidences of death and injury and to carry out research for improving firefighter safety. Examples of the types of fire prevention projects that are supported by FP&S include smoke alarm installation, fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile fire setter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs.

For information: FY09 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program Guidance - visit www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/guidance/. FY09 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants FAQs - visit www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/faq/09/. There is also a help desk and a tutorial to assist applicants that can also be reached via www.firegrantsupport.com.

NASFM Co-Host Sept. 30 Workshop on Fire Retardants and Fire Fighter Health

On September 30, NASFM co-hosted, along with the International Association of Fire Fighters and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) a workshop at NIST entitled "Fire Retardants and their Potential Impact on Fire Fighter Health." Presenters from government, academia, industry, fire research institutions, environmental advocacy organizations and the fire service provided research and perspectives on what fire retardants are and why they are used; what happens to fire retardants and their products in the environment; and health risks to fire fighters created by fire retardants. Participation by the audience led to lively exchanges. It was the first time in participants' memory that qualified technical people representing different points of view on these complex topics gathered in one place with the opportunity to address and question each other.

By mid-October, the NIST website will post the presentations from the workshop, along with a list of research needs that were identified by conference participants. A DVD of the meeting also will be available by request.

NASFM agrees that there is a need to continue the dialogue on these issues in a way that leads to fire safety solutions that protect people and fire fighters today without endangering future generations or the environment.

For information: Karen Suhr, NASFM Government Relations, kfernico@aol.com or 202-737-1226 ext. 15.

New Edition of NFPA 72 Has New Requirements for Deaf and Hearing Impaired

On October 1, the 2010 edition of NFPA 72®, the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code®, was published. It contains a number of important changes that are summarized in the article "Giant Steps" by Lee F. Richardson in the September/October 2009 issue of NFPA Journal. Among the changes are new provisions for signaling the deaf and hard of hearing that are based on scientific studies that challenged previous assumptions about what kinds of sounds will wake people up. The article states:

"Households in which fire alarm systems or smoke alarms are being installed to signal those with mild to severe hearing loss will be required to provide a low-frequency alarm signal in sleeping rooms. The low-frequency signal must be square wave, having a fundamental frequency of 520 Hz, or provide equivalent waking ability.

"A square wave includes multiple odd harmonics that result in a complex tone including a range of frequencies. The low-frequency signal can be produced by a separate notification appliance or by a smoke alarm. In addition, where these installations are intended to signal those with profound hearing loss, a tactile notification appliance - one that, by definition, uses touch or vibration - will be required, in addition to the usual high-intensity strobes located in sleeping rooms.

"Beginning January 1, 2014, where commercial fire alarm systems are being installed, audible notification appliances installed to signal any sleeping area will be required to produce the low-frequency audible alarm signal."

Dr. David Boyd of DHS Briefs Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Delegation in Washington, DC

Each year, Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Robert Doke makes a special trip to Washington, DC, along with 25 or more Oklahoma fire service leaders, state Representatives, and members of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Commission. The purpose of the trip is to meet with members of Congress and Federal government agencies on critical fire safety and emergency preparedness issues. This year, the delegation received a special briefing by Dr. David Boyd, Director of Command, Control and Interoperability for the Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate.

The briefing was focused on a new initiative by the agency called 'Virtual USA' with the goal of developing and implementing a standards-based architecture for sharing critical information across all public safety disciplines at the local, state, and national levels. Virtual USA already has several examples of successful case studies that were shared during the briefing: Virtual Alabama and the Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response (VIPER). Dr. Boyd invited delegation members to participate in the DHS Strategic Resource Group and in starting a project in Oklahoma that ties into Virtual USA.

Considering many State Fire Marshals are involved with managing and analyzing multiple types of critical information (i.e., building plans, arson investigation, and NFIRS data) the Virtual USA initiative is relevant for NASFM and the public safety leaders each SFM works with in their respective states. NASFM President Alan Shuman is a Task Group lead for the DHS Virtual USA GIS Working Group that is part of the Strategic Resources Group. As the initiative develops, opportunities for related working group participation will be available to other State Fire Marshals. Please contact Rebecca Harned at rharned@firemarshals.org with any questions, to request additional information, and/or to inquire on opportunities for a Virtual USA briefing for your state.

National Residential Fire Safety Symposium

UL is sponsoring an important public safety symposium for anyone who is interested in learning more about the concepts of building fire safety functions into residential buildings in North America.

The Residential Fire Safety Symposium is scheduled for Dec 2 and 3 and will take place the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix. Click on the following link for a press release and summary of the agenda topics that will be covered.

http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/corporate/newsroom/newsitem.jsp?n=ul-and-phoenix-fire-department-to-host-first_20090923095100

The goal of the event is to bring parties involved overall residential built environment to discuss fire designs, fire concepts, fire protection methods, use and installation of sprinklers, etc. The cost of the symposium is \$99 for the two days, and there are reduced rates for participants at the Arizona Grand Resort. Click on the following link for the registration page. <http://www.uluniversity.us/catalog/display.resource.aspx?resourceid=228281>

For additional information or questions, contact:
Steve Kerber at stephen.kerber@us.ul.com or 847-664-3329
Bob James at robert.j.james@us.ul.com or 813-956-8669

ICC Fireside Chat

You are invited to join International Code Council Board President Adolf Zubia and CEO Richard P. Weiland for a Fireside Chat scheduled for 3:30 p.m. (Eastern) on November 3.

Topics might range from the status of the International Green Construction Code initiative, to information on the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act working its way through Congress, an update on how the Code Council is faring in this economy, or plans to expand Building Safety Week into a month-long event.

Please participate via telephone if you are unable to attend the chat in person.

Whether attending in person or by phone, you must register for the Fireside Chat. Registration is free, [click here](#).